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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

## MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

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For information call:

Dennis Kostick (703)648-7715 FAX No. (703)648-7722

e-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Jeff Milanovich (data), (703)648-7982 FAX No. 1-800-543-0661

e-mail: [jmilanov@usgs.gov](mailto:jmilanov@usgs.gov)

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

Soda Ash and Sodium Sulfate, Monthly

MINES FaxBack: (703)648-4999

Soda Ash Doc. #610100

Sodium Sulfate Doc. #620100

MINES-DATA (14,400,N,8,1): (703)648-7799

MINES-DATA technical assistance: (703)648-7943

### SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE IN MAY 1996

Natural soda ash production in May was 852,000 metric tons, 2% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 260,000 tons, a 21% increase from that of the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in May was 1,370,000 tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda as soda ash equivalent, based on data from all three producers, was 17,600 metric tons in May.

Apparent consumption of soda ash for April was 538,000 tons, slightly less than the April 1995 level of 539,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in April were 349,000 tons and 8,510 tons, respectively.

The cumulative soda ash statistics through April 1996, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1995, were as follows: production 1% lower, imports 21% higher, exports 10% higher, ending stocks 11% higher and apparent consumption 3% lower.

NOTE: Effective July 1, the zip code changed to 20192.

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Prepared in the Industrial Minerals Section and the Data Collection and Coordination Section, August 2, 1996.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Natural sodium sulfate (Metric tons)	
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	Production	Ending stocks
1995:				
May	843	170	19,700	36,600
June	816	154	31,800	38,900
July	860	176	26,100	27,600
August	840	188	26,500	18,700
September	845	185	25,900	11,400
October	870	193	33,200	19,000
November	876	254	30,100	18,800
December	907	306	26,300	16,400
Total (Jan-May)	4,090	XX	127,000	XX
Total	10,100	XX	327,000	XX
1996:				
January	765	287	26,800	18,200
February	811	329	28,700	18,000
March	790	257	32,400	20,700
April	836 r/	215	24,200	23,400
May	852	260	15,500	11,300
Total	4,050	XX	128,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1996 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium Sulfate				Total	
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Salt Cake		Other		Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)
			Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)		
1995:								
April	285	36,800	4,120	441	15	5	4,130	446
May	393	43,700	1,180	122	526	106	1,700	228
June	286	35,100	2,300	196	676	179	2,980	375
July	279	34,500	12,600	1,100	479	105	13,000	1,200
August	278	36,200	1,570	168	1,300	725	2,870	893
September	334	45,200	9,760	923	2,490	226	12,200	1,150
October	320	41,700	1,390	111	671	187	2,060	298
November	275	36,600	1,580	131	487	170	2,070	301
December	286	36,300	10,400	793	192	84	10,600	877
Total (Jan-Apr)	1,120	136,000	18,800	1,320	92	608	18,900	1,930
Total	3,570	445,000	59,500	4,860	6,910	2,390	66,400	7,250
1996: 3/								
January	300	38,700	4,060	317	108	43	4,160	360
February	314	42,100	14,000	1,040	212	88	14,200	1,130
March	270	35,900	2,000	172	2,350	576	4,340	748
April	349	45,300	8,260	646	31	16	8,290	662
Total	1,230	162,000	28,300	2,180	2,700	723	31,000	2,900

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

3/ May 1996 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey, using Journal of Commerce trade data and information.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total Quantity	% of total
Argentina	13,000	--	8,950	--	22,000	2%
Australia	--	--	5,000	--	5,000	--
Belgium	6,900	5,610	--	27,600	40,100	3%
Bolivia	2,500	--	1,100	--	3,600	--
Brazil	34	42,300	17,800	7,050	67,200	5%
Canada	16,700	21,300	23,900	14,100	76,100	6%
Chile	21,900	--	19,100	--	41,000	3%
China	13,000	--	8,000	4,970	26,000	2%
Colombia	11,700	11,100	--	11,600	34,400	3%
Costa Rica	--	--	--	1	1	--
Croatia	--	--	--	8,840	8,840	1%
Dominican Republic	--	2,160	--	--	2,160	--
Germany	--	--	124	--	124	--
Guatemala	--	5	3,500	--	3,510	--
Hong Kong	--	--	40	--	40	--
Indonesia	23,500	25,500	44,400	42,100	136,000	11%
Ireland	383	--	--	--	383	--
Israel	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	1%
Jamaica	2,000	29	--	--	2,030	--
Japan	7,900	36,400	--	39,600	83,900	7%
Korea, Republic of	15,100	22,700	5,290	43,600	86,600	7%
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	8,800	19,300	2%
Mexico	33,200	39,300	34,600	32,700	140,000	11%
Netherlands	--	--	2	--	2	--
New Zealand	40	20	40	7,070	7,170	1%
Peru	4,020	--	4,140	--	8,160	1%
Philippines	12,300	12,300	10,000	--	34,500	3%
Saudi Arabia	18,000	--	--	17,500	35,500	3%
Singapore	--	--	--	4,970	4,970	--
South Africa	--	24,500	27,100	25,000	76,700	6%
Spain	11,400	--	--	--	11,400	1%
Sweeden	--	--	--	32	32	--
Taiwan	21,700	13,600	21,200	12,900	69,400	6%
Thailand	23,000	28,000	25,000	8,300	84,300	7%
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	1,360	--	1,360	--
Turkey	--	--	--	7,310	7,310	1%
United Kingdom	--	1	--	--	1	--
Uruguay	--	--	1,000	--	1,000	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	7	--	7	--
Venezuela	30,800	29,200	--	24,500	84,500	7%
Total	300,000	314,000	270,000	349,000	1,230,000	100%

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium Sulfate				Total	
	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)
1995:								
April	8,810	1,270	12,300	1,110	5,470	433	17,800	1,540
May	6,870	1,110	14,400	1,380	4,990	369	19,400	1,750
June	6,980	999	9,820	992	6,450	411	16,300	1,400
July	6,840	954	10,700	990	5,480	348	16,100	1,340
August	6,640	938	9,920	1,030	4,740	300	14,700	1,330
September	6,770	968	10,500	911	6,750	462	17,200	1,370
October	8,040	1,150	12,400	1,130	5,310	365	17,700	1,490
November	6,240	899	11,000	1,150	5,140	338	16,100	1,490
December	6,480	891	12,400	1,180	3,620	289	16,000	1,470
Total (Jan-Apr)	27,800	4,080	42,600	3,730	30,100	2,360	72,700	6,090
Total	82,700	12,000	134,000	12,500	72,600	5,250	206,000	17,700
1996: 4/								
January	8,130	1,140	12,000	1,120	4,070	276	16,000	1,390
February	7,400	1,050	10,300	966	3,260	279	13,600	1,250
March	9,460	1,330	13,500	1,150	2,920	220	16,400	1,370
April	8,510	1,200	11,200	993	1,950	186	13,100	1,180
Total	33,500	4,720	46,900	4,220	12,200	961	59,100	5,190

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes Glauber's salt.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

4/ May 1996 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	or Decrease	
1995:						
April	837,000	8,810	285,000	21,200	--	539,000
May	843,000	6,870	393,000	--	23,800	481,000
June	816,000	6,980	286,000	--	16,000	553,000
July	860,000	6,840	279,000	22,000	--	566,000
August	840,000	6,640	278,000	12,000	--	557,000
September	845,000	6,770	334,000	--	3,000	521,000
October	870,000	8,040	320,000	8,000	--	550,000
November	876,000	6,240	275,000	61,000	--	546,000
December	907,000	6,480	286,000	52,000	--	575,000
Total (Jan-Apr)	3,240,000	27,800	1,120,000	--	9,150	2,160,000
Total	10,100,000	82,700	3,570,000	103,000	--	6,510,000
1996:						
January	765,000	8,130	300,000	--	19,000	493,000
February	811,000	7,400	314,000	42,000	--	462,000
March	790,000	9,460	270,000	--	72,000	602,000
April	836,000 r/	8,510	349,000	--	42,000	538,000
May	852,000	NA	NA	45,000	--	NA
Total (Jan-Apr)	3,200,000	33,500	1,230,000	--	91,000	2,090,000

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.